

SPRING 2007

Kwan Um School of Zen

NEWSLETTER

IF YOUR MIND IS CLEAR, THEN YOUR ACTIONS ARE CLEAR

One day in a dharma class at the Seoul International Zen Center, Zen Master Seung Sahn said to his students, "Attaining enlightenment is easy, but keeping enlightenment is difficult."

A student then asked him, "Sir, since the whole universe is already clear, why do we need to keep enlightenment?"

With surprise in his eyes, Zen Master Seung Sahn looked at the student for a moment, then asked, "Are you clear?"

"No, I am not clear, sir." *[laughter in the class]*

"Then, what do you keep?"

The student hit the floor.

"Look at that!" Pointing a finger toward the questioner, Zen Master Seung Sahn said to the rest of the students, "That is what he keeps!?"

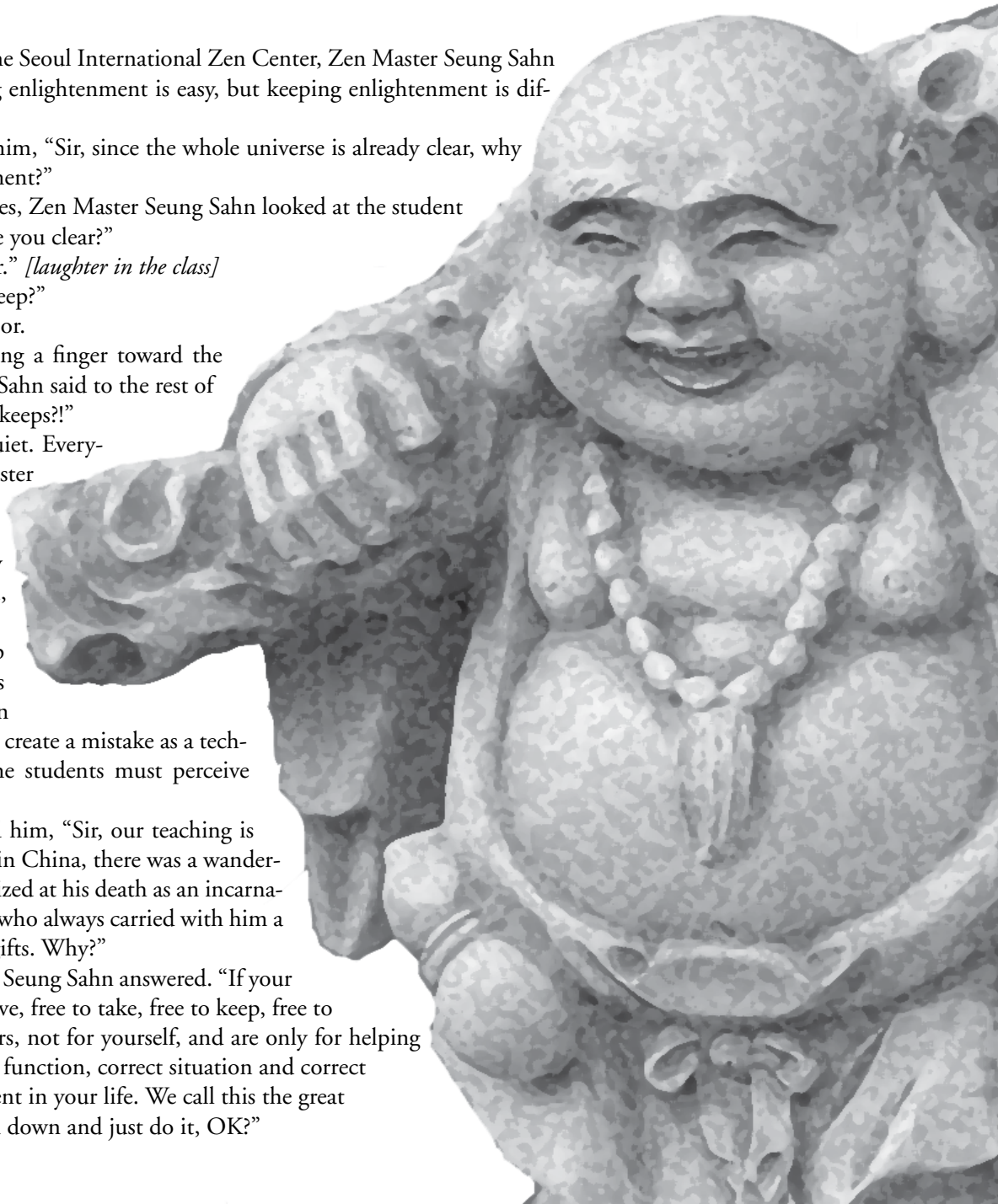
The room was very quiet. Everybody knew that the Zen Master was testing the student's mind.

The questioner joined his palms and answered, "I only sit here and study with you, sir."

"Keep that mind! Keep that mind!!!" Then, closing his eyes, Zen Master Seung Sahn said, "Sometimes a teacher will create a mistake as a technique to test his students. The students must perceive that."

Another student asked him, "Sir, our teaching is 'put it all down.' But long ago in China, there was a wandering Zen Master, Pu-tai (recognized at his death as an incarnation of Maitreya Bodhisattva), who always carried with him a large hempen sack filled with gifts. Why?"

"For you!" Zen Master Seung Sahn answered. "If your mind is clear, you are free to give, free to take, free to keep, free to hold; your actions are for others, not for yourself, and are only for helping this world. That means correct function, correct situation and correct relationship moment-to-moment in your life. We call this the great bodhisattva way... so, put it all down and just do it, OK?"



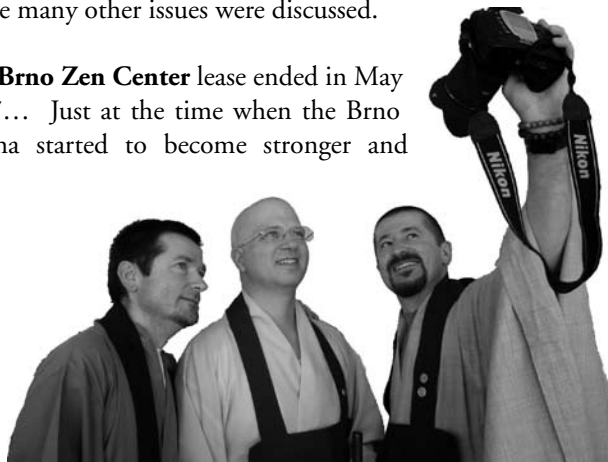
*Right: A calligraphy workshop
at Brno Zen Center*



ZEN CENTER NEWS

There is a half-day retreat nearly every Sunday at the **Bratislava Zen Center**. Our families go to church, and we go to practice. We do morning practice as often as possible, besides regular evening practice. There was a Yong Maeng Jong Jin held in the town of Modra, close to Bratislava. The retreat was led by Mu Shim Sunim JDPS, and there were about twenty-five people sitting, including two nuns from Korea. This was the first Yong Maeng Jong Jin organized by Bratislava Zen Center after two years! There was a lot of great energy around. Everything worked out to be cool, and we traded many gifts at the end of the retreat. Many Bratislava Zen Center practitioners went to sit Kyol Che in Poland, too. It was really good to do hard practice together with so many devoted people—and for such a long time. Two of our practitioners sat for two days of a Yong Maeng Jong Jin organized by Budapest Zen Center. We had a big sangha meeting on October 26th, where many other issues were discussed.

The **Brno Zen Center** lease ended in May 2007... Just at the time when the Brno sangha started to become stronger and



Above and below: Scenes from Mu Shim Sunim JDPS's visit to Slovakia.

stronger and open up like a lotus flower—we received news from the owner of the apartment that he had decided to return with his family from abroad. After six years we have to move out. So we are now intensively looking for a new place for the Zen Center—it should be a rental flat where one larger room would serve as a dharma room, and one or two other rooms would be for residents. This does not seem to be realistic considering our financial situation. Last year we set up our own bank account and started to organize charity events, but we are far from being able to buy or rent an apartment on our own. So we will probably have to find just rental space for a dharma room, where we would meet a few times a week for meditation practice and once a month for a retreat. We are reminded of Zen Master Seung Sahn's words —“a good situation is a bad situation; a bad situation is a good situation.” So we take this as a challenge and a lesson to grow up and become independent... We would deeply appreciate any kind of help—inspiration for finding a suitable place for the Zen Center or financial support. Brno Zen Center will not close its doors, just change its location... Contact person: Katka Grofová: telephone +420 604 821 655 email brno@kwanumzen.cz We had the honor to host great calligraphy tutor



Below: Delaware Valley's February Yong Maeng Jong Jin led by Zen Master Soeng Hyang

Petra Grossmannova. She has already led three workshops in Brno Zen Center for thirty people. We would like to continue to host these workshops in the future—in Brno and also in Prague—as there is a huge interest in calligraphy in the Czech Republic these days. Everybody is very welcome! More information at www.kwanumbrno.cz.

Practice at **Cambridge Zen Center** is going strong, with new members and more resident members. Francisco Irby and Joe Robichaud represented Cambridge at the Second Memorial Ceremony for Zen Master Seung Sahn and tour in Korea. In the spring, Mu Shim Sunim JDPS from Mu Sang Sah in Korea led a Yong Maeng Jong Jin in April, and a scheduled eight-day sandwich retreat in June will be led by Zen Master Soeng Hyang, Zen Master Bon Yeon, and Zen Master Bon Haeng. The sandwich retreat will be two back-to-back weekends with weekday morning and evening practice for working participants, following the Yong Maeng Jong Jin schedule. All-week sitting will also be available for those interested in sitting some or part of the whole week. The Cambridge Zen Center Dharma Teachers' Group meets quarterly for events and workshops, implementing the Dharma Teacher Training curriculum during the meetings. The Cambridge Zen Center vision and strategic outlook process has been successful, with sangha input, in implementing annually targeted goals and accomplishments for the Zen Center. In 2006 we managed to fully pay off the mortgage and become debt free; a new website was launched with multimedia resources and members' area; the physical plant is undergoing a project list of renovations; and community-building sangha meetings and long house meetings are held regularly. Two new meditation groups have been established at Harvard, the undergraduate Buddhist group and the Women's Center meditation group.

Chogye International Zen Center has several new sangha members. Eunjoo Ha, MK Babcock, and Zsuzsanna Sidlo took five precepts in July and December. We had a two-year memorial ceremony for Zen Master Seung Sahn and our first seven-day retreat at Chogye International. The retreat was led by Zen Master Wu Kwang and was a big success with many participants. Our annual Winter Zen Study Group began in December. Ildon Sunim, an ordained Korean nun who is a doctoral candidate in Buddhist Theory at Dongguk University in Seoul, is currently studying in the United States and is being sponsored in part by our Zen Center. In addition to her Zen Study Group teaching, she is also teaching us Korean breathing and Yoga exercises.

Zen Master Soeng Hyang led a one-day Yong Maeng Jong Jin at the **Delaware Valley Zen Center**. Eleven practitioners, including Soen Sa Nim's daughter Ann, spent the day sharing "don't know" and benefiting from Zen Master Soeng Hyang's teaching. Thank you, Soen Sa Nim!



Dharma Zen Center in Los Angeles has seen a wonderful resurgence over the past year. The Center is now running at near full occupancy, and among our senior residents are Mu Sang Sunim and senior dharma teacher Juan Velasco. In addition to our usual practice, we are now offering dharma talks and circle talks on alternate Sunday mornings. John Cougher energetically led a renovation of the dharma room, which is now an even more beautiful practice oasis in the middle of this bustling city. Soon after, John moved with his wife Sarah to Norman, Oklahoma where they saw the birth of their first child, Sadie. Congratulations John, and many thanks for all your efforts! We hosted our second annual art auction, led by artist David McDonald, to raise funds to continue to improve the Center. Paul Park JDPSN continues to inspire us in his roles as guiding teacher and abbot. Matthew Kamm is our new director, and Kwan Jin Sunim is now housemaster. We continue to practice hard, "try, try, try" and do our best to "only go straight, don't know."

Empty Gate Zen Center held a precepts ceremony at the end of our annual eight-day retreat. Alex Perrotti, Susan Schleifer, and Rowan Sherwood took five precepts, and after over eighteen years of Kwan Um School of Zen membership, Mark DeWitt took ten precepts along with Kristin Kennedy, and began the dharma teacher in training program with Zen Master Bon Soeng. Practice obviously is very powerful here at Empty Gate—the earth shook twice as we did walking meditation during our long retreat. Our sangha continues to grow as a few east coast Kwan Um transplants have taken up residence in the Bay Area. We also have the joyful news that our head dharma teacher Chris Crowther and his partner Julie gave birth to a baby girl named Chloe.



*At left: After the precepts ceremony at Empty Gate Zen Center
Below: Dharma talk during Empty Gate's one-week Yong Maeng Jong Jin*

Gateless Gate Zen Center is a small center in transition from a rural retreat center to an urban residential center with a practice that goes morning and evening for seven days a week. It includes a dharma room that is open 24/7 to those who find a need to practice. There is an outreach program in eleven prisons that has accounted for 30 to 50 percent of Gateless Gate residents. The presence of these men and women was and is the critical mass that has enabled the center to transition. The mixture of residents and non-residents is the critical mass that enables the center to grow. We envision a residential program of three houses, with ten to sixteen residents. It is the integration of the prison program with the Center that not only has attracted donations, but forms the basis of several grant applications that are pending. As nice as the donations and grants have been, it should be noted that the center is in no way, shape, or form, dependent on them for its day-to-day operation. The tragedy is that some of our strongest practitioners may never see the other side of the walls that surround them.

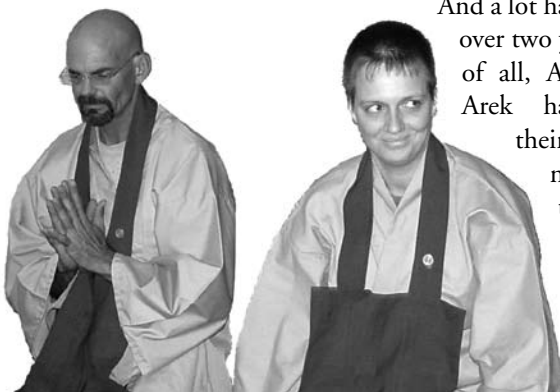
Gdansk: It has been two years since we last were in Golubie Kaszubskie, where our center has a small area of land. Let



us hope that in the future there will be a Golubie-Gdansk "base" where people from all over Poland, as well as from Europe, may be able to take part in a meditation retreat, chanting practice Kido, or a

longer retreat. Equipped with shamans' drums, just the two of us set off with a strong plan to do Kido in the open air. Of course, all those interested in this kind of practice were invited; but first the weather was not good, then info about the expedition was sent very late (which was unfortunate); so eventually we alone got on the train from Gdynia to Golubie. Although the trip was not too long it was very beautiful—Kaszuby, this wonder on the map of Poland. Just after Zukowo, a different world opens up, green-brown hills with mountainous-like cottages, fields with herds of cows, small forests, water, some bridges. And railway stations: at Kaszuby railway station, time has stopped here—brown-red brick, shabby-looking walls, dirty roof tiling—sounds uninteresting, but you find this place charming. It is like in the Voyage by Piwowarski: "Sir, boredom, nothing is happening"—you can count on the fingers of one's hand: a hen, a duck, a man, and all are on the stone platforms as if waiting for trains—trains coming, going; they are still standing, nothing is changing. The closer to Wiezyca, the more beautiful, incredibly vivid woody valleys, now wet from drizzling. Finally Golubie—that super railway station, of course. We are doing the shopping in the store where there is everything, it is enough to give the list—bread, mineral water, bananas, coffee, ping-pong bats with a net and three balls, an umbrella, a mooring donkey mascot. After searching for the right way (traditional in Golubie), and after essential advice from the local people, we reached our piece of land.

And a lot has changed over two years. First of all, Anetta and Arek have built their house, near which there was supposed to be





built Golubie Zen Centre. Let us hope it will happen, although smaller than we had planned before. In the valley there is Waldek's wooden house almost ready; nearby, Alina from Oslo Zen Centre is building her cottage. So in the near future it looks as if there will be a Buddhist Village, taking into account that in the neighbourhood some other Buddhists also have land. Let us hope that in the future dharma energy will start penetrating the surroundings, which already happened during our previous Kido practices with the famous rain Kido with tents. The Kido was not too long but intense—we put an altar with a small Buddha by the window on the first floor in Waldek's cottage. We were two but we did our best—it is beautiful to chant Kwan Seum Bosal and play drums when from the windows you can see the view over the whole surroundings—when the vista does not end with the wall of the house opposite a busy street, and a forest wall a few kilometres from there. And here only meadows, cottages, trees, and sometimes a blue, often dark grey sky. Anetta and Arek's house lies on a hill. We drank coffee at their place—they showed their house to us, from the roof to a large cellar. We talked sitting on the couches in front of a large window, with beautiful views and the fog going slowly, rising in the valley after rain, touching the tops of bushes and trees, going slowly along the hill. When Alina from Oslo came, and while sitting and looking at the photos

of Kaszub environment by Anetta, for a while I felt like a member of a Buddhist micro-society gathered between Kaszub hills... Grzegorz always says that we are blazing the trail —Grzegorz Rutkowski and Jacek Wachulewicz from Gdansk Zen Center.

The **Las Vegas Sangha** cooled off last summer with a camping-style Yong Maeng Jong Jin at Mount Charleston, located about thirty-five miles north and about six thousand feet above the sweltering valley floor; sangha members were able to experience some wonderful together-action in the cool pine-scented air. Abbot Thom Pastor JDPSN led the retreat and held interviews in the motor home provided by dharma teacher Karen Rennick. In November, sangha members Marie, Tim, and Vic took five precepts during our fall Yong Maeng Jong Jin, again led by Pastor PSN. The New Year brought us all a very wonderful visitor in Myo Ji Sunim JDPS. This was Myo Ji Sunim's first visit to Las Vegas and she led a traditional Korean New Year's Kido. The energy and insight that she brought to us at Great Brightness was remarkable. We continue to work on the bridge to connect the Korean community here in Las Vegas with Great Brightness Zen Center. Her visit was pivotal in that respect. We now have several new members and have started an unofficial "Korean Night" on Tuesdays after practice. We all come

Above: Myong Oh Sunim JDPS led a kido at Gdansk Zen Center's land in Golubie, and some scenes from the land.

Left: Scenes from after the winter Yong Maeng Jong Jin at the Gateless Gate Zen Center

Below: New Year's Kido at Great Brightness Zen Center

together to visit, share dharma, and of course food. During her stay, Myo Ji Sunim toured some of the natural wonders here in the desert and some of the unnatural wonders of the "Las Vegas Strip." We are all so grateful for her visit and hope she will return soon. We have monthly one-day retreats planned in addition to our annual Spring Mountain Ranch Retreat along with a camping Yong Maeng Jong Jin at beautiful Valley of Fire in September.

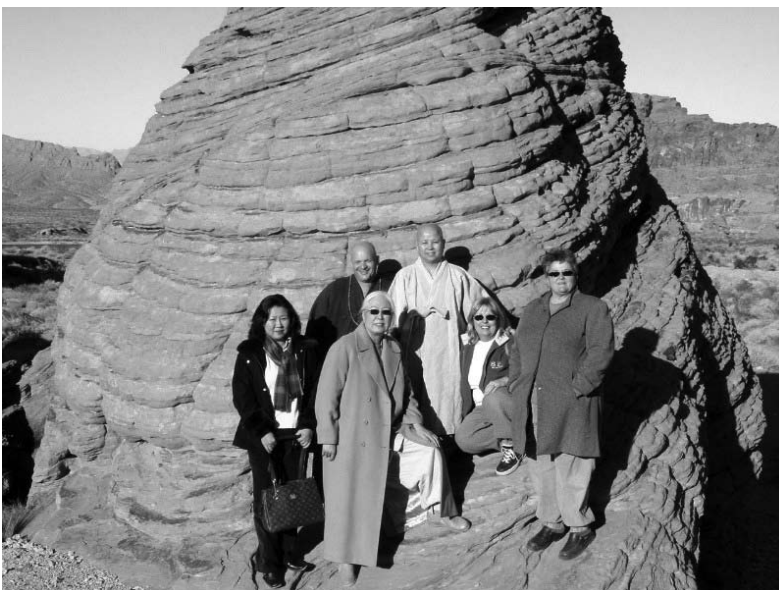
The dharma room at the **Indianapolis Zen Center** has been dry-walled and the electrical work finished! Our last few steps involve repairing the flooring and wood trim. We also plan to install an emergency exit door. Once these steps are complete, we hope to have an opening ceremony. Plans for 2007 include three weekend retreats with our guiding teacher Lincoln Rhodes JDPSN, and one week-long retreat in December. This will be our longest retreat ever in India-

napolis! Our membership continues to grow, as does our contact with the central Indiana community. We had many inquiries and visitors in January and February. In March, we participated in a panel discussion at a local hospital about religion and health care practices.

Members of the **Isthmus Zen Community** have been busy in recent months! In November 2006, with guiding teacher Thom Pastor JDPSN as precepts teacher, our abbot Dave Peters received his senior dharma teacher kasa, and Ed Augustine took ten precepts, becoming a dharma teacher in training. We are all so proud of both of them! In February, one of our members hosted the Fifth Annual Dinner-and-a-Movie night. After a wonderful vegetarian Indian meal, we settled in to watch Zen Master Seung Sahn in "Wake Up! On the Road with a Zen Master," but a mechanical failure cut the video short. All will be repaired in time for the Sixth Annual event! Guiding teacher Thom Pastor JDPSN came back to the Madison area in March 2007 for Isthmus Zen Center's annual weeklong Yong Maeng Jong Jin at Bethel Horizons retreat center. Clear teaching, bright sunshine, and brilliant white snow surrounded the participants. And finally, abbot Dave Peters, senior dharma teacher, began a lecture series on the Heart Sutra in spring. We secured space at the First Unitarian Society (the largest Unitarian "sangha" in the world) for the series, and thereby made the teachings of the Heart Sutra available to a segment of the Madison population we may not otherwise reach.



At left: "When hungry eat. When tired sleep" (at the Indianapolis Zen Center); Below: Remodeling continues at Indy Zen Center. A drywall bodhissattva donated his labor to provide walls for the dharma room



Above: New Year's Kido at Great Brightness Zen Center, and the Great Brightness Zen Center sangha with Myo Ji Sunim JDPS at Valley of Fire State Park, Nevada



Below: First practice session of Ocean Light Zen Center was attended by sangha members (left to right) Stuart Baker, E.J. Han, Michael Schutzler, Jean Dallas, Tom Murray, and Susan Lee (not in picture).

Greetings to all from the **Kansas Zen Center** in Lawrence, Kansas. It was bitterly cold here during the winter, and we are all enjoying warm spring days. Much has been happening here over the last few months. We have been in the process of redecorating the house. Walls have been re-plastered, windows repaired, new wiring installed, and new bathroom fixtures that don't leak have been added! The living room looks wonderful with new furniture, curtains, and cabinets. Many thanks go to all the sangha members who have put such hard work into helping with this renovation. We had a five-day retreat in January that was well-attended and very strong. We continue to have many new people interested in the practice. The Kansas Zen Center's practice is supported by communities all around Lawrence. We have members from as far away as Omaha, Nebraska, and Oklahoma City, Oklahoma. Zen groups in Topeka and Kansas City also thrive because of the presence of the center in Lawrence.

Dharma Sound Zen Center disappear. **Ocean Light Zen Center** appear. After several months of putting an administrative foundation in place, Ocean Light Zen Center located practice space at Mercer Island Community Center and began regular weekly practice on February 8, 2007. Zen Master Soeng Hyang has agreed to continue as our guiding teacher. This year Zen Master Bon Soeng will lead several Yong Maeng Jong Jin retreats and Tim Lerch JDPSN will join us for dharma talks, kong-an interviews, and one-day retreats. Over twenty years ago Zen Master Seung Sahn offered the name "Ocean Light" for the Seattle sangha and we are pleased to take it up at this time.

With the change in seasons come some changes in the temple officials at the **Providence Zen Center**. Chong Won Sunim, who has served as head dharma teacher for the past six years, is now the new abbot, and the head dharma teacher position has been taken over by Kwan Sahn Sunim. The previous abbot, Zen Master Dae Kwang, will of course continue as guiding teacher as well as fulfilling his duties as Kwan Um School of Zen abbot. Spring has arrived here with another successful conclusion to the Winter Kyol Che, held in its usual location at the Diamond Hill Zen Monastery. We had a total of forty participants attending from all over the country as well as Korea, Hong Kong, Poland,

England, Israel and Canada. Eleven people sat the entire ninety days—the most in recent memory. After the retreat, Providence Zen Center hosted the annual Kwan Um School of Zen Buddha's Birthday weekend. During the weekend, member Darlene Demers took five precepts. Congratulations! We would like to welcome new residents Ye Jin Sunim, from Korea and Neta Sadot, from Israel, who is serving as our new kitchen master. We would also like to welcome back Tamarind Jordan and Jiri Hazlbauer who participated in Winter Kyol Che in the Czech Republic.

Our Head Temple in Asia, the **Seoul International Zen Center**, is engaged in one of the most critical years in its more than twenty-year history. First—and most importantly of all—many of our Sunims have recently taken the final vows, called Bikkhu/Bikkhuni Precepts. This is the result of many years of hard practice, and passing the recently tightened rules governing Sunim education in Korea is no easy feat!! Seoul International's head monk Bo Haeng Sunim



(Lithuania) finished his Precepts training, as did our Boep Song Sunim (Korea.) Boep Il Sunim (Israel) also completed the precepts training, hard on the heels of completing a rigorous TEN-MONTH KYOL CHE at the prestigious Gak Hwa Sah Temple deep in the Tae Baek Mountain range. (Talk about HARD TRAINING!!!) Two of our nuns, Won Bo Sunim

(Lithuania) and Ja Eun Sunim (Canada) recently finished a very intensive four years of traditional Nun's College, and took Bikkhuni Precepts. Bo Kwan Sunim (Korea) finished a strong four years of Central Sangha College to qualify for her Bikkhuni Precepts, and Myong Hwa Sunim (Poland) has also been a long-term resident, and recently served her teacher, Zen Master Dae Kwan, for several months of final training before the Precepts Ceremony. Also, Mu Sang Sunim (not from LA! —a nun, from France!) completed her Bikkhuni Precepts, as well!! Two Korean practitioners who came straight into the Buddha-dharma through our Seoul International Zen Center and practiced extensively here have just become novices: Joon Han Sunim is Hyon Gak Sunim's first monastic disciple—the first Korean-born ever to become a monk under a Westerner in the 1,700-year history of Korean Buddhism!—and Kwang Woo Sunim has become Myo Ji Sunim's first monastic disciple. A young Russian-Israeli guy who appeared on our doorstep one evening over two years ago, was immediately packed off for

preliminary training to Mu Sang Sah, and returned to us for another six months of drastic final polishing; he is now the upright novice, Bo Soeng Sunim. Three deep bows, and congratulations, to all of our strong Sunims!! Congratulations! Congratulations! So many living and practicing together, have come out of this Zen Center, and continue to emerge, as we have recently accepted into our haeng ja program Jozsef Gorbe (Hungary), a student of Chong An Sunim JDPS and known to some in the West briefly as Hye Jin: he's doing an excellent job, and with this clear traditional training will definitely make a GREAT MONK! Jo Bul Sunim (Poland) and Oh Kwang Sunim (Serbia) are completing more than a year each of bone-chilling training in Japan's two finest Zen halls, Sogenji and Bukkoko-ji, and will return to Hwa Gye Sah in time for 2007 Summer Kyol Che. Leading up to hosting the Second Memorial Anniversary of our Founding Teacher's passing into Nirvana, Hwa Gye Sah temple welcomed a new abbot, the Venerable Su Kyong Sunim, who has made many great improvements here. He became a monk in 1966, and is famous as a serious Zen practitioner, and as an outspoken activist long involved with environmental and social issues, including protesting construction of new bases for the United States Army on Korean land. He, along with leading monks Zen Master Dae Bong, Mu Shim Sunim JDPS, and Hyon Gak Sunim JDPS (all U.S.), and lay followers, invited Most Venerable Seol Joeng Kunsunim, the Vice-Patriarch of Su Dok Sah Temple, to become Hwe Ju Sunim of Hwa Gye Sah. This is a seat below where Zen Master Seung Sahn oc-

cupied here. (In the Kwan Um School of Zen, it is like the School Abbot position, as compared to the School Zen Master.) They are both trying to help our practicing very much. Our Guiding Teacher, Hyon Gak Sunim, is, as usual, very active nonstop. After continuous practicing for two seasons of very hard training at a traditional 90-day Kyol Che in Su Dok Sah's venerated Jeong Hae Sah meditation hall (where Zen Master Man Gong, Zen Master Ko Bong, and Zen Master Seung Sahn lived and practiced), including one week not lying down to sleep continuous 24-hours-a-day sitting intensive meditation, he returned to lead our Hwa Gye Sah retreats. While our guiding teacher was away, Head Monk Bo Haeng Sunim (Lithuania) held the chugpi very strongly, so he kept the Zen Center strong and completely not-moving in his absence, and even growing, so because of their combined efforts, during the 2006-07 Winter Kyol Che, more than 70 people sat winter retreat together. At the end of 2006, Hyon Gak Sunim also published two important books: new teachings of Zen Master Seung Sahn, in *Wanting Enlightenment is a Big Mistake*, is his Master's Thesis from Harvard; and *The Mirror of Zen* is a very important collection of Great Master So Sahn's teachings, which is the very first book which Zen Master Seung Sahn requested his early Western students to publish after first coming to America. Hyon Gak Sunim's Sunday dharma talks here always have a minimum of 200-300 people in attendance, and bring many donations which we use to support our monks practicing in different places. Buddhist TV filmed some of his talks in English, and due to viewer demand they are in constant re-broadcast! Broadcast network says every week an average of 300,000 people are watching his teachings on TV, every day, so interest in Buddhist TV is increased dramatically as is interest in Zen Master Seung Sahn's special dharma. Before Kyol Che, the Guiding Teacher and Head Monk led a group of senior Korean monks



Above: Smiling faces during the Kwan Um School of Zen Buddha's Birthday Weekend hosted by Providence Zen Center

Below: Zen Master Soeng Hyang, Zen Master Dae Kwan, and the Hong Kong sangha after their January Yong Maeng Jong Jin

to Lithuania, the Czech Republic, and Hungary, meeting with our European students, showing Kwan Um School of Zen Zen center life to Su Dok Sah family representatives, and securing very good donations of money and Buddhist implements for the European sangha. There was a very excited response, which continues to this day! Out of this teaching visit, the Guiding Teacher and Head Monk saw that many people want to practice in Korea, but do not always have the financial means to do so after airfare. After further discussions they made FREE the Winter and 2007 Summer Kyol Ches at the Seoul International Zen Center, Hwa Gye Sah, for anyone who travels from outside of Korea, if they are accepted. Anyone who is interested, contact us at seoulzen@yahoo.com.

Zen Master Soeng Hyang visited Hong Kong in mid-January 2007. On January 18, more than one hundred students crammed into the dharma room at **Su Bong Zen Monastery** to attend her dharma talk on "Vocation and Job." In the following week, Zen

Master Seong Hyang and Zen Master Dae Kwan together led the seven-day Yong Maeng Jong Jin retreat at Su Bong Zen Monastery. Over sixty people participated in the overnight sitting meditation held from 7:30

p.m. to 4:00 a.m. the next day. The Hong Kong sangha was very much inspired by Zen Master Seong Hyang's pointing-direct-to-mind teaching and kind heart.

This was a busy and productive year for the **Ten Directions** community. After four years of holding our retreats at the Argonne Guest House we were able to negotiate a useful partnership with the Theosophical Society in Wheaton and move our sangha-wide events to this setting. The Theosophical society has many advantages for our community. It has a full commercial-style kitchen that we are able to use to prepare meals. We have been able to store our kitchen equipment, all our altar goods, and a dozen mats and cushions. This has provided great relief to the many members who regularly were transporting all these things to and from each retreat. We are able to utilize a variety of spaces in the society, enabling us to hold an event here every month; we use the large upstairs auditorium, the small meditation room, or the classroom, depending on the need of the event. We will also be able to host the next Midwest Sangha Meeting in this space in

the spring of 2008. We miss the white deer, the beautiful oak trees, and the long walks through the woods (not to mention the SWAT team) but our new home feels mighty fine. We have had a sea change in the teaching schedule of our sangha. As our guiding teacher, Zen Master Soeng Hyang, has become the School Zen Master, and spent more time visiting the international sangha, she has had to reduce her yearly visits with us to twice a year. Andrzej Stec JDPSN has ably led the other two retreats. We will probably continue with this schedule of teachers for the next few years. We had three precepts ceremonies this past year. In November, John Sanibria took five precepts, and Mark Garrett and Kate Seco became dharma teachers in training. In January we had precepts ceremonies at both our prison sanghas. At Indiana State Prison at Michigan City three men took five precepts and two men became dharma teachers in training. Later that month three men took five precepts at Westville. The volunteer base at both prisons continues to grow. We also bid

farewell to senior dharma teacher Bob Kemp, one of the long time members of the Chicago sangha, as he and his wife Jan relocated to Charleston,

South Carolina. The Ten Directions is beginning its sixth year as the Ten Directions Community. It feels like we are moving out of our "formative years" in creating a metropolitan-wide sangha and into a time of action in the community. We can now turn our attention to creating a vision for our community that allows us to bring the dharma to a wider group of people in the coming year. Thanks to the excellent work of Ruby Ruan we have a new web site (www.tendirectionszen.org) Come visit us.



**ZEN MASTER SEUNG SAHN
MEMORIAL CEREMONY**

November 27, 2007

Hwa Gye Sah, Seoul

Tour of Korean Buddhist sites

November 18–29, 2007

contact: jw@kwanumzen.org

Thank You...

To the 2006 Annual Fund Donors. The Sangha also sincerely thanks all members, everyone who donated to their local Zen Center and to our international centers, and everyone who contributed time and practice energy to help their Zen Center, the School, and all beings.

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REPORT FROM THE TEACHERS

The trustees for the Americas met at Providence Zen Center in April. Highlights of their discussions were:

- A memorial to Zen Master Seung Sahn will be constructed this year at Providence Zen Center, the international head temple.
- Primary Point Press will resume publishing books. An editorial board has been formed to review manuscripts. The board members are Zen Master Soeng Hyang, Zen Master Dae Kwang (senior editor), and Judy Roitman JDPSN.
- Before applying to become a senior dharma teacher in the Americas, a student must complete either a ninety-day Kyol Che or a ninety-day period of extra practice at home, as determined by their guiding teacher. Students also must have attended at least one sangha weekend or dharma teacher retreat at Providence Zen Center since taking the five precepts.
- Heila Downey, the Dharma Centre (South Africa) and the Modesto Grupo de Meditadores (Brazil) have left the Kwan Um School of Zen. We wish them well in their future teaching and practice.

The European teachers met at Paris Zen Center in April. Highlights of their discussions were:

- Zen Master Bon Yo was named the new Vice Head Teacher for Europe. She will act as head of the European sangha when Zen Master Wu Bong is away.

- National sanghas may recommend whom they want as their national guiding teacher. The European Teachers' Group and the Head Teacher for Europe decide on and appoint the national guiding teachers.

- The abbots of the national sanghas are appointed by the Head Teacher for Europe. The abbots of the national head temples are appointed by the national guiding teachers. Abbots of other Zen Centers and leaders of groups are appointed by the abbots of the national sanghas.

- Zen Master Bon Yo was appointed the guiding teacher for Slovakia. Namhee Chon was appointed as the sangha abbot for Germany, and Alvidas Turkis was appointed as the sangha abbot for Lithuania.

- An executive board has been formed to serve as the administrative arm of the European School. Mukyong JDPSN (Dr. Roland Wöhrle-Chon JDPSN) has been appointed as the European abbot and will lead this board. He will form a team of directors who work for the integration of the European School.

- A preliminary program was presented for the 2008 Whole World is a Single Flower conference, to be held in Europe and hosted by Warsaw Zen Center. The conference will be on September 20 and 21, and will be followed by a five-day tour of Warsaw, Cracow, Auschwitz, Prague, Budapest, Won Kwang Sah, and optionally, Paris.

EVENTS & CONTACTS:

For the school-wide calendar of programs, please visit www.kwanumzen.org/calendar.html

For addresses, phone numbers, and e-mail addresses of the Zen Centers and groups please see the latest issue of Primary Point.

For web addresses, please visit www.kwanumzen.org

Newsletter of The Kwan Um School of Zen

Zen Master Seung Sahn, *Founding Teacher*
Zen Master Soeng Hyang, *School Zen Master*
Zen Master Dae Kwang, *Abbot*
JW Harrington, *Executive Director*
Tamarind Jordan, *Executive Assistant*

The Kwan Um School of Zen

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